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NOTES ON CANADA,

WITH REFERENCE TO THE ACT 6-7 VICT. 1843, c. 20.

FOR

REDUCING THE DUTIES ON CANADIAN WHEAT AND WHEAT
FLOUR IMPORTED INTO THE UNITED KINGDOM,

COMPRISING

STATISTICAL AND GENERAL INFORMATION

RELATIVE TO THE PROVINCE,

STATEMENTS FROM OFFICIAL RETURNS SHOWING
THE PAST OPERATION OF THE ACT,

AND

OBSERVATIONS

ON ITS PROBABLE FUTURE RESULTS, &c. &c.

BY A MEMBER

OF THE

ESSEX AGRICULTURAL PROTECTION SOCIETY.

CHELMSFORD: D. BURRELL, T. ARTHY.
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NOTES ON CANADA,

§c. §c.

As the operation of the present Law with respect to the Duties on Wheat and Flour imported from Canada into the United Kingdom excites much discussion amongst the Agriculturists of this country, it is hoped that the following pages will not be considered ill timed or useless. They are published for the purpose of placing before the public, Topographical and Statistical information collected from various sources, which may assist persons in forming a judgment as to the probable future results of the facilities given by the Act of 6—7, Victoria, c. 29—for the importation of Wheat and Wheat Flour into the United Kingdom from Canada.

POSITION, AREA, & POPULATION OF CANADA.

Canada comprises that portion of the American Continent which is bounded on the East by the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of St. Lawrence—on the West by the country beyond Lake Superior—on the North by the Hudson's Bay territory—and on the South by the United States and a part of New Brunswick.

The country occupies an area of about 350,000 square miles, being more than six times the area of England and Wales, and nearly three times that of England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland. Lower or East Canada occupies 205,863 square miles, including 3200 miles covered by lakes and rivers, and excluding the surface occupied by the St. Lawrence and part of the Gulf, which cover 52,000 square miles, the whole area of land and water being 257,863 square miles or 165,032,320 acres. Upper or West Canada comprises about 144,000 square miles or 92,160,000 acres.

At present but a comparatively small portion of the land is in cultivation. Dr. McCulloch gives the following table for 1842.

Area in Acres.	Surveyed or granted.	Unsurveyed.	Available for Settlement.
Lower Canada 132,000,000	2,734,735	118,983,000	526,000,000
Upper Canada 64,000,000	1,326,343	3,180,000	3,754,000

The country is, in length, from East to West, about 1000 miles; in breadth, from North to South, about 300 miles.

In 1806 the population of Upper and Lower } 270,718
Canada, was

1816	ditto	333,250
1824	ditto	580,450

1831	Lower Canada	* 525,329	} 821,873
..	Upper ditto	296,544	

1836	Lower Canada, supposed	600,000	} 1,000,000
..	Upper Canada	400,000	

Mc Culloch makes the population to be in

1842	Lower Canada	700,000	} 1,300,000
..	Upper ditto	600,000	

The Parliamentary returns state the population of Upper Canada in 1842 to be only 486,055.

IMMIGRATION.

The immigration into the Colony from the United Kingdom is considerable. In 1842 the number of Emigrants arrived at Quebec and Montreal from the United Kingdom, was as follows:—

From England and Wales.....	12,216	} 43,818
Scotland	6,070	
Ireland	25,532	

The total number arrived at Quebec from the United Kingdom in 14 years—1829 to 1842, was

From England and Wales	96,349	} 366,181
Scotland	42,399	
Ireland	222,415	
Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, &c. 4,518		
Continental Ports.....	500	

It was calculated by Mr. Buchanan the British Government Agent at Quebec, that the 50,933 Emigrants landed at Quebec and Montreal in 1834, took into the country a capital of at least £1,000,000. Many of these Emigrants proceed to the United States, but a large number of those who land at New York, afterwards proceed to Canada. It is therefore very difficult even to approximate to the relative numbers that finally settle in each country.

CLIMATE.

Canada may be said to have but two seasons—summer and winter. Winter has no sooner disappeared, which

* Census taken in 1831.

generally happens in the middle of April, than the whole vegetable creation starts into renewed life with a rapidity and vigour that leave the season of spring with such doubtful limits as to be scarcely perceptible. In the fall of the year, September and October are generally fine and summer like, and are succeeded by what is called the Indian summer, in November, during which the genial temperature of the atmosphere is extremely pleasant. In Upper Canada the frost commences at the end of November, and continues till near April: sometimes it is the first week in that month before the navigation is open. The climate, especially of Upper Canada, is colder in winter, warmer in summer, and always possessing a brighter, clearer, and drier atmosphere than that of Great Britain, but it is neither so much warmer in summer nor so much colder in winter as to be disagreeable. In Lower Canada, the winter is very severe, the country being covered with snow nearly half the year. In summer the highest temperature varies from 96 to 102 Fahrenheit, but the purity of the atmosphere abates the heat that prevails in most countries where the mercury ranges so high. The spring opens and the resumption of agricultural labour takes place from six weeks to 2 months earlier at the Western extremity of Lake Ontario in Upper Canada than in the neighbourhood of Quebec.

SOIL AND PRODUCE OF WHEAT.

In the course of the debates in the House of Commons on the Canadian Flour Bill, it was repeatedly stated by the advocates of the measure, that Lower Canada did not grow enough Wheat for its own consumption, and that Upper Canada but barely supplied the deficiency. This was denied by several members. Mr. E. Ellice said it was new to him to hear that the Canadians—nay, that even the Lower Canadians did not grow a surplus of Corn beyond their own consumption. Mr. Ellice had engaged in large land speculations in Lower Canada, having one estate 18 miles square, near Montreal, which, some years ago, he bought for less than £10,000, and recently sold to a Company of Proprietors in England for £120,000. A large portion of the estate is under cultivation, and Mr. Buckingham calculates that it may, in 20 years, be rendered worth £500,000. Colonel Rushbrooke said “That in the paper No. 218, laid on the table of the House, there was a paragraph which stated that Canada was now an exporting country, and that in a short time she would be able to supply the mother country with any quantity of corn, provided the British markets be open to her produce.”*

*Memorial of Earl Mountcashel and the North American Committee of the Colonial Society in London, in 1842.

Mr. Murray [in his "British America"] states, that the Agriculture of Canada, was in 1839, most rapidly increasing, and the Province, had for many years exported Wheat and Flour into the United States. A report of the Committee of the House of Representatives gives a return of quantities so imported: they were

Bush. Wheat. Cwt. Flour,			Bush. Wheat. Cwt. Flour,		
1831	585	5	1834	1,222	26
1832	1,163	3	1835	236,194	28,483
1833	1,581	36	1836	115,850	not known.

The amount in value being 374,930 dollars.

Parliamentary Returns give the following particulars. In 1840, Lower Canada imported 1074 barrels of Wheat Flour, and exported 157,260 bushels of Wheat, and 303,071 barrels of Flour. The total value of Corn exported was £494,507 sterling. The total value of imports of all articles was £1,903,043—of exports £1,625,685.

Cattermole, a gentleman, who gave Public Lectures in 1831, on the advantages of Emigration to Canada, speaking of the Upper Province, says "It would be difficult—perhaps impossible, to find in any other region of the globe, a tract of country of the same magnitude, with so many natural advantages as that part which lies between Lakes Ontario, Erie, Huron, and the Ottawa river, nine-tenths of the whole of which are calculated for the exercise of almost every description of agricultural labour, and with such a prospect of success as perhaps no other part of the Continent could realize. A part of this tract of country commencing in the neighbourhood of Kingston, and running westward nearly 500 miles to the Sandwich frontier by a depth northward of about 100 miles, is of itself capable of supplying all Europe with grain." McCulloch also says "That part of Upper Canada which stretches from Lake Simcoe and the rivers Trent and Severn, westward to Lake Huron and the St. Clair river, and southward to Lake Erie, and part of Lake Ontario, has a soil of extraordinary fertility, capable of producing luxuriant crops of wheat and every sort of grain. The soil is more genial for vegetation than Lower Canada." A writer in *Blackwood* (February, 1838) observes that "The quantity of good soil in Canada is proportionate to that of any other country of the globe. It is in some places singularly fertile; 50 bushels of wheat an acre are a frequent produce. In some instances 100 bushels have been obtained. The soil of Upper Canada is chiefly composed of brown clay and loam intermixed with marl." In the *Colonial Magazine* (March, 1840) are the following observations, "The soil, although of almost every variety, is mostly fit for agricultural purposes, being rich and deep with the spoils of

the forest, accumulating for centuries. With regard to the effect of climate on agriculture, it may be said, that ploughing for spring crops generally commences in Upper Canada the first week in April, and terminates in June, although instances are not infrequent of ploughing and sowing in the latter end of March ; and such was the mildness of the season in December, 1836, that a great deal of land was ploughed in that month. Agricultural operations may be considered suspended from St. Andrew's Day, (30th November) to St. Patrick's Day, (March 17). The fall wheat is generally sown by the 10th of October, although there is a case on record in the township of Ancaster, on a farm belonging to F. Suter, Esq. of wheat sown on the 5th of November, and producing a beautiful sample of seed wheat in the following year." There can be little doubt that, with the continual accession of enterprising emigrants and their capital, together with the impetus of the Act of 1843, the agricultural produce of Canada will greatly and rapidly increase. In a Petition from merchants, millers, agriculturists, and others of the Home District of West Canada, in April 1842, it was said, "The cultivation of Wheat is undoubtedly the object to which more than any other the Canadians are destined to devote their exertions: the climate and soil are alike favorable to its growth. It is proper to add that many parts of Canada are, from the prevalence of a destructive fly, less favourable to the growth of wheat. It is also to some extent disadvantageous that the rich and heavy land of Upper Canada, is not to be found in general upon the immediate banks of the lakes and rivers. It lies for the greater part from 12 to 20 miles inland.

In 1840, there were in Montreal District 4,000 acres of Wheat, producing 50,000 bushels, and the price at Montreal was 5s. sterling per bushel.

In 1842, the produce of Wheat in Upper Canada was 3,221,990½ bushels, and the price at Toronto and Montreal markets was 4s. 5d. per bushel.

The Canada Company which is a very prosperous one, was incorporated by Act of Parliament and Royal Charter in 1826, for the purpose of purchasing, holding, improving, clearing, settling, and disposing of, waste and other lands in the Province of Upper Canada; for opening, making, improving, and maintaining roads and other internal communications for the benefit thereof, &c.

CURRENCY, REVENUE, &c.

The paper currency in 1841 was for Lower Canada from

£400,000 to £500,000 sterling. In Upper Canada the amount of Government Debentures outstanding was £1,232,880, 3s. 1d. sterling. All the Banks issue notes for 5s, and there is no Colonial metallic currency.

In Canada, accounts are kept and sales and purchases made in pounds, shillings, and pence, *Halifax currency*. This currency is about 20 per cent inferior to the British, though the denominations and proportions are the same. The pound currency is four Spanish dollars, each dollar being called 5s. But the average value of the dollar in the London market is only 4s. 2d., hence 4s. 2d. sterling is equal to 5s. currency; or 16s. 8d. sterling is equal to £1 currency; or £100 sterling is equal to £120 currency.

When exchange is really and wholly undisturbed, or in other words at par (£100 sterling selling for £120 currency) it is said to be at 8 per cent. per annum. The average exchange on London in 1841, was 12½ to 13 per cent., in 1842 9½ to 11 per cent.

It was stated in Blackwood (1838), that the British Government paid directly more than £200,000 a year for troops and public works, but there is reason to believe that for the last 8 or 9 years the annual expense of Canada to this country for military and other matters, has been about £800,000 per annum. In 1831, the revenue and expenditure of Canada is thus given in the Parliamentary tables of revenue, population, &c.

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
Upper Canada,	£102,289	£101,035
Lower Canada,	157,154	176,773
Total	£259,443	£277,808

Murray makes the Revenue and Expenditure in 1834, to have been

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
Upper Canada,	£108,841	£162,430
Lower Canada,	156,589	108,188
Total	£265,430	£270,618

Cattermole, writing in 1831, says "All the taxes or assessments put together on a farm of 100 acres only amounts to a few shillings." An emigrant at Guelph, Upper Canada, about that time says "Our taxation here is moderate: a man with 100 acres does not pay a dollar a year altogether."

In August, 1844, the following particulars were given in a Parliamentary return moved for by Mr. Leader.

The gross total charge on account of Canada in respect of the Army, Navy, Ordnance, Commissariat, &c. was in

	£.		£.
1836	165,834	1840	1,313,884
1837	189,048	1841	898,988
1838	510,248	1842	884,998
1839	1,629,070	1843	806,007

Total £6,398,077.

The special grants on account of the rebellion of 1837 were

	£.		£.
1838	500,000	1841	108,000
1839	1,000,000	1842	108,000
1840	351,746	1843	25,300

Total £2,096,046.

In the official return of the public expenditure for the year ending 5th January, 1843, we find an item of "Insurrection in Canada £253,343 12s. 4d."

The British Army maintained at the present moment in Canada, consists of ten regiments or battalions, viz. the 14th foot, reserve battalion of 23rd foot, 43rd foot, 52nd foot, 2nd battalion 60th foot, reserve battalion 71st foot, 81st foot, 82nd foot, 89th foot, 93rd foot. There is also a Colonial Corps—the Royal Canadian Rifle Regiment. The Militia in 1842, amounted to 166,830—viz. for Lower Canada 90,562, Upper Canada 75,268.

IMPORTS, EXPORTS, MANUFACTURES, &c.

In the Petition of merchants, millers, agriculturists, &c., of West Canada, April, 1842, it was stated, that Canada, at that time, purchased a larger amount of British manufactures, and furnished employment to a much greater number of British ships, than several of the most populous kingdoms of Europe combined.

The declared value of British and Irish produce and manufactures exported in 1842 from the United Kingdom into the British North American Colonies, was £2,333,525. In that sum are included.

	£
Apparel, slops, and haberdashery	282,551
Cotton manufactures	485,490
Hardwares and cutlery	128,181
Iron and steel wrought and unwrought.....	145,744
Linen manufactures	108,548
Silk manufactures	74,674
Soap and candles	56,736
Stationery	44,750
Sugar refined	55,169
Woollen manufactures	425,122

£1,806,965

In 1839, Canada imported of British manufactures, in value as under

Cotton.	Linen.	Silk.	Woollen.	Iron.
£544,110	£67,468	£95,772	£329,598	£111,604
Total £1,148,552.				

Mc Culloch says, that in the year 1839, the total value of imports into Canada from all parts was £2,137,374, of exports £1,099,337; the Colony in 1841 had 482 ships, the tonnage of which was 53,112.

The value of ashes, grain and timber (the most important articles of Canadian produce) exported in 1839, was

Ashes.	Grain, Ect.	Timber.	Total.
£142,457	£32,052	£880,403	£1,054,912.

In Upper Canada there were in 1841, 2804 mills, of which 414 were for corn. Of manufactories there were 22 iron works, 10 iron hammers, 6 nail factories, 147 distilleries, 96 breweries, 261 tanneries, 1021 pot and pearl ash manufactories. Woollens for domestic purposes are manufactured throughout the province. In 1842 were manufactured 433,537 yards of fulled cloth; 166,882 yards of linen, cotton, and other thin cloth; 727,288½ yards of flannel or other woollen cloth not fulled. Wool 1,302,510½ per lbs.

The great shipping ports of Canada are Quebec and Montreal. Quebec is situated about 340 miles from the mouth of the St. Lawrence, and in 1842 had a population of 31,809. It is the capital of Canada and of the British possessions in North America. Montreal is the second town of Canada, and is situated on the St. Lawrence about 180 miles from Quebec. The population in 1842 was 40,203. Vessels of 600 tons burden ascend here. Toronto, the capital of Upper Canada is near the head of Lake Ontario.

RIVERS, LAKES, AND CANALS.

The rivers of Canada are very numerous and spread over the country like the arteries and veins of the human body, and are the channels through which the trade of the country flows. The principal rivers are the St. Lawrence, the Ottawa or Grand River, the Gatineau, the Saguenay, the St. Maurice or Three Rivers, the Champlain, the Chaudiere, the Richelieu, and the Montmorency. Of these it is unnecessary here further to notice more than two or three. The St. Lawrence is a river of magnitude scarcely to be conceived by an Englishman who has not "seen the world." In length it nearly equals any river on the habitable globe, and perhaps in magnificence and beauty, surpasses every other. It rises in the great basin of Lake Superior, in Upper Canada. Its course to the sea is nearly 3000 miles, the width varying from more than that of the

Thames in its widest part to 80 miles. For nearly 2000 miles, including the Lakes Ontario, Erie, and Huron, it is navigable for ships of 200 tons burden, and the remainder of its course for batteaux, (flat bottomed boats,) of from 10 to 20 tons burden. It does not preserve the same name throughout its course: from the Sea to Montreal it is called the St. Lawrence; from Montreal to Kingston the Cataraqui or Iroquois; between Lakes Ontario and Erie the Niagara; between Lakes Erie and St. Clair the Detroit; between Lakes St. Clair and Huron the St. Clair; between Lakes Huron and Superior, the Narrows or Falls of St. Mary. The first steam boat that plied on the St. Lawrence was launched in 1812; there are now many—some of large burden—employed conveying goods and passengers between Quebec and Montreal and between Quebec and Halifax in Nova Scotia. The navigation at Quebec closes by the freezing of the river at the end of November, or beginning of December, and opens in April. Below Quebec, the river is seldom frozen over, but the masses of floating ice agitated by the tide, render navigation impracticable. The Ottawa originates in Lake Temiscaming, more than 350 miles N.W. from its junction with the St. Lawrence, near Montreal. In 1839 a survey was made to ascertain the possibility of connecting the Ottawa with Lake Huron by navigation. Numerous smaller rivers amply supply the communication between the several districts of each province. One of the most singular rivers is the Saguenay which falls into the St. Lawrence near Quebec. The depth at its mouth has never yet been ascertained; it is probably the deepest of rivers, having been tried in vain with 330 fathoms of line. The height of the banks rising from 200 to 2000 feet is as extraordinary as the depth of the stream.

The Lakes or inland seas of Canada, chiefly in the Upper Province, are innumerable; the principal are Lakes Superior, Huron, Erie, and Ontario. The following is a statement of the size of these magnificent "meetings of the waters."

	Length.	Width.	Circumference.	Depth.
Lake Superior	360 miles	140 miles	1500	900 feet
Huron	250	220	1000	900
Erie	270	63	658	200
Ontario	172	59	467	500

The Erie Canal* connects the waters of Lake Erie with those of the Hudson. Lake St. Clair, the smallest of

*The great United States' Erie Channel is a vast achievement: it is 363 miles long, and was eight years making, being completed in 1825, at a cost (including the Champlain Canal) of 9,000,000 dollars: the expense was borne chiefly by the State of New York.

the Lakes, is oval and rather less than 100 miles in circumference. The Bay of Quinte runs parallel with Lake Ontario 80 miles, and is separated from it by the Prince Edward District. The boundary, dividing Canada from the United States, runs through the great Lakes.

The British Government has expended a very large sum upon the Rideau Canal, as much with the view of improving the military defences of Canada as of benefiting its commerce, in which latter respect it has been of considerable utility. The Welland Canal has also become a well frequented commercial channel, and is every day increasing in importance. By means of these Canals an uninterrupted line of steam communication is established between the Atlantic and Amherstburgh, one of the remote settlements of Upper Canada, a distance of more than 1500 miles, which we may soon expect to see extended to the head of Lake Huron, and eventually to the Western extremity of Lake Superior, about 700 miles beyond Amherstburgh, giving to Quebec a command of internal navigation inferior only to that of New Orleans. The Rideau Canal commences at the foot of the Chaudiere Falls, in the Ottawa river, and ends at Kingston, on Lake Ontario, and by thus connecting that river with the St. Lawrence it affords a safe, easy, and expeditious communication between Kingston and Montreal: natural rivers or lakes are in great part made use of for this Canal. The expense to the British Government has been upwards of £1,000,000: the original estimate was £169,000. The Canal is 135 miles in length. The tolls collected more than pay the cost of its support. The Welland Canal was formed to connect Lakes Erie and Ontario, the navigation of which was rendered impassable by the Falls of Niagara. It is 53 miles long, of which about 19 required excavation, the remainder being a natural navigation of rivers and reservoirs. This Canal was originally a private undertaking assisted by Loans from Upper and Lower Canada. It has since been purchased by the Colonial Government, who with the assistance of the British Government, are enlarging and completing it in a very substantial manner. The tolls in a few years will pay an interest of £5 or £6 per cent. The cost when complete is estimated at £560,000. Two other very useful Canals have been formed—the La Chine and the Granville. The La Chine begins at Montreal, and extends up the side of the Island until it gets to the still water at the head of the rapids of La Chine: it cost about £120,000 which was defrayed by a Company of merchants, assisted by the British Government. The Canal of Grenville is about 40 miles from La Chine, at the rapids called Long

Sault and Chute of Blondeau, in the Ottawa river: it is equal in magnitude to that of La Chine, and the expense was defrayed by the British Government.

DIVISION AND RE-UNION OF THE PROVINCES.

For a considerable period the French were masters of Canada, but the invasion of the country by the English, in 1759, ended by France (in 1763) ceding the whole of Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Cape Breton, and Newfoundland to Great Britain. Much dissension and many political difficulties subsequently arose out of the jarring interests and opposite views of the inhabitants of Canada, the Upper Province having a British and Protestant population, and the Lower a French and Roman Catholic. Mr. Pitt thought that this evil might be remedied by dividing the country into 2 Provinces to be called the Upper and the Lower, each having a separate Legislature. This division took place in 1791, by what was called Lord Granville's Act. The measure appeared to answer the desired end for some years, but in the autumn of 1837 a rebellion burst forth headed by M. Papineau in Lower Canada, and by Mr. Mackenzie in the Upper Province. A host of fabricated grievances were assigned as the cause of the outbreak, but the conduct and declarations of the rebels showed that their real object was, with the assistance of the United States, to throw off the sovereignty of England. Much bloodshed was the result of this revolt, but it was suppressed. Sir Robert Peel stated in the House of Commons in May 1843, that the expense of suppressing the rebellion had been little less than £3,500,000. The Canadian constitution was suspended, and the Legislatures dissolved; and Lord Durham was sent out, as Governor General, if possible, to restore tranquillity. The principal recommendations of his Lordship were—the re-union of the two Provinces into one, the assembling of the English and French races in one Parliament, and mingling them in other bodies for the transaction of public business. These recommendations were adopted, and on the 23rd July, 1840, the "Act for the union of the Canadas" was passed. The Act provides, that for the United Provinces there shall be one Legislative Council and one Assembly, to be called the Legislative Council and Assembly of Canada; and that all laws passed by those bodies, and assented to by her Majesty, the Queen of England, shall be binding within the Province. The Members of the Legislative Council, (not fewer than 20 in number) are nominated by the Crown; and each member is entitled to hold his seat

for life unless forfeited by peculiar circumstances. He may however resign. The members of the Assembly are elective. But although the Provinces are united, they are commonly designated Upper or West Canada, and Lower or East Canada.

THE CANADA CORN LAW OF 1843.

We now come to the principal subject—that of the Canada Corn Law of 1843, which we will divide into 4 parts, 1. The previous state of the Corn Law affecting Canada in the articles of Wheat and Flour. 2. The passing of the Act of 1843. 3. The operation of the Act up to the present time, 4. The probable future results of the Act.

PREVIOUS STATE OF THE LAW.

By the Act of 1815, 55 Geo. 3. c. 26, all importation of Wheat from any of the British plantations of North America was forbidden except when the average home price was at or above 67s. per quarter, when it might be imported duty free.

An Act of 1822, 3 Geo. 4. c. 60, permitted the importation of Wheat and Flour from British North America, at the following duties

	Wheat, per qr.	Flour, per Bar.
	s.	s. d.
If under 67	12	3 3
at 67s. but under 71	5	1 7
at or above 71	1	4

With an additional duty after the first three months.

By an Act of 6 Geo. 4, c. 64, (1825), Wheat, the produce of any British possession in America was admitted for one year at 5s.

It was enacted by the 6th Geo. 4, c. 73, that the following duties should be paid on Wheat and Flour, not the growth, produce, or manufacture of the United Kingdom, or of any British Possession in North America, or the West Indies, or within the limits of the East India Company's Charter, imported into any British Possession in North America or the West Indies, viz. 8s. per quarter on Wheat and 5s. per barrel on Flour.

The Act of 1 Wm. 4, c. 24, repealed (after the 15th April, 1831) so much of the Act 6 Geo. 4, c. 73, and subsequent Acts as imposed any duty in any of the British Possessions in North America, on the importation of Corn or Grain unground; or on the importation of Wheat Flour into Canada.

In 1828, 9 Geo. 4. c. 60, an Act was passed by which the duty on Wheat imported from British possessions in North America was fixed at 5s. per quarter, when the price

of British Wheat was under 67s. and 6d. when it was at or above 67s. The barrel of Flour of 196 lbs. was charged as 38½ gallons of Wheat.

In 1842, 5 Vic. (c. 14,) an Act was passed altering the Import duties on Foreign Corn. That Act provided that the following duties should be charged on Wheat and Flour the produce of and imported from any British Possessions in North America or elsewhere out of Europe into the United Kingdom.

	s.	s.	s.
Wheat under 55			5 per quarter
„ at 55 and under 56		56	4
„ „ 56 „ 57		57	3
„ „ 57 „ 58		58	2
„ „ 58 and upwards			1

Wheat Meal and Flour for every barrel (196lbs.) a duty equal in amount to that payable on 38½ gallons of Wheat.

By 5—6 Vict. 1842, c. 49, s. 7 and 8. it is enacted that certain duties shall be paid on certain goods, wares, and merchandise, not being the growth, production, or manufacture of the United Kingdom, or of any British possessions in America, or of the Mauritius, or of any British possession within the limits of the East India Company's Charter, or the produce of any British Fishery, imported or brought into any British possession in America, or the Mauritius, by sea, or inland carriage, or navigation. Among the articles charged is Wheat Flour 2s. per barrel. Corn and Grain unground, Meal or Flour except Wheat Flour are exempted.

If we look to the state of things with regard to Canada, from the year 1831 to 1843, we shall find that during the whole of that period, Wheat might be imported into Canada duty free, not only from the United States but from any other Foreign Country and after being ground into Flour in Canada, be imported into the United Kingdom at a small duty, viz. up to 1842 varying from 6d. to 5s. per quarter, and in 1842, varying from 1s. to 5s. When the United States' Wheat ground into Flour in Canada was paying here the maximum duty of 5s., Wheat coming here direct from the United States would pay a duty of 18s. But it was stated by Lord Stanley in 1843, that the duty paid on Colonial Wheat and Flour, had, on the average of the last 5 years, been only 2s. 1d. per qr., that in 1842, it was 2s. 5d., and that in only one of the 5 years it had been so much as 4s. American Wheat unground could not be legally exported from Canada at Canadian duty inasmuch as that duty was only applicable to the produce of Canada.

THE PASSING OF THE ACT OF 1843.

Our next consideration is the passing of the Act of 1843. For many years the Canadians had sought to obtain a remission or reduction of the duty on their Wheat and Flour imported into the United Kingdom, but they did not attain their object until the year 1843.

From Parliamentary Papers of the last Session, we gather the following particulars. It appears that the Canadian Legislature had, up to the year 1842, declined laying a duty on the importation of Foreign Wheat. On the 21st February, 1842, Sir C. Bagot, the Governor of Canada, forwarded to Lord Stanley, the Colonial Secretary, a Petition to the Queen and Parliament, from merchants of Montreal, and a memorial from the Board of Trade at Montreal, praying for a repeal of the duties on the importation of the produce of the soil of Canada, into the United Kingdom. In the Petition it was stated that from the great distance from which the Wheat and Flour were transported, the remuneration afforded to the Canadian Farmer was not sufficient to allow even the smallest impost—that the expense of inland transit and freight across the Atlantic was greater in proportion to the produce of the soil in Canada—than were the rent and taxes paid by the Farmer for the produce of the soil in Great Britain to the produce of the soil thereof—and that Canada took almost exclusively British manufactures. Lord Stanley replied that the Petition would, by command of Her Majesty, be presented in the House of Peers by Earl Ripon, and in the Commons by his Lordship (Stanley.)

On the 2nd March, 1842, Lord Stanley addressed the following dispatch to Sir Charles Bagot, which is the document so frequently referred to during the Parliamentary discussions in 1843.

LORD STANLEY to the Right Honourable Sir CHARLES BAGOT, G.C.B.

Sir,

Downing Street, 2d March 1842.

In the anxious Consideration which it has been the Duty of Her Majesty's Government to give to the important and complicated Question of the Importation of Corn into this Country, they have, of course, not overlooked the Interest which is felt in this Question by the Province of Canada, and which has been expressed in Memorials from the Legislative Body, and from other Parties, addressed to Her Majesty and the Legislature of this Country, and although, in present Circumstances, Her Majesty's Government have not felt themselves justified in recommending to Parliament a compliance with the general Request of the various Memorialists, that Canadian Corn and Flour should be imported at a nominal Duty into the United Kingdom, I trust that the Steps which we have taken, and the Grounds upon which we have declined to advance further in

the same direction, will convince the People of Canada that the Course which we have pursued has been dictated by no unfriendly Feeling towards the Interests of Canada, and especially of Canadian Agriculture.

The Steps which have been taken, so far as they go, have been decidedly in favour of those Interests. By the Law, as it has hitherto stood, Canadian Wheat and Wheat Flour have been admissible into Great Britain at a Rate of Duty estimated at 5s. per Quarter, until the Price in the English Market reached 67s., at which Amount the Duty fell to 6d. By the Bill which is now before Parliament the Duty of 5s. is leviable only while the Price is below 55s., and at 58s. falls to 1s. only. But, in addition to this Reduction in the Amount of Price at which the lower Duty becomes payable, it is proposed to take off the Restriction which has hitherto been imposed upon the Importation of Canadian Flour into Ireland, and thus to open a new Market to that which may be justly considered as one of the Manufactures of Canada.

In the Measures which they have adopted, not without the most anxious Attention to the various Interests involved, Her Majesty's Government have been desirous, while they gave a general Facility of Admission to the British Market, of disturbing as little as possible the relative Advantages possessed by the Colonial and Foreign Suppliers of that Market. In this Sense, while they have continued to the Channel Islands the Facilities which they have heretofore enjoyed, of a free Importation of their own Produce (limited as it necessarily is in Extent) into Great Britain, together with the Means which they at present enjoy of having their own Supplies furnished from the neighbouring and cheaper Market, they have not felt themselves called upon to remove from the Isle of Man the Restrictions which have been recently imposed on that Island as to its Foreign Imports, while it possesses the Advantages of an unrestricted Commerce with Great Britain. The same Principle has guided Her Majesty's Government in the Course which they have felt it their Duty to pursue with regard to Canada.

It is impossible to be more fully convinced than are the Members of Her Majesty's Government of the Importance to the Interests, both of the Colony and of the Mother Country, of Maintaining between the Two the most unrestricted Freedom of commercial Intercourse. Even a cursory Examination of Facts and Figures must demonstrate the Value to be attached, in a commercial and much more in a moral and political point of view, to the Continuance and Improvement of that rapidly increasing Intercourse; and Her Majesty's Government would have had much less Difficulty in approaching the Question of an unrestricted Admission of Canadian Wheat and Flour into the British Markets, if it had been in their Power to look at that Question as one of Intercourse between Great Britain and her most important Colony, and independent of all Considera-

tions of Foreign Trade. But it was impossible for Her Majesty's Government so to regard it; it was impossible that they should not advert to the geographical Position of Canada in reference to the great Corn-growing States of the West of America; it was impossible not to see, that, however desirable it might be even to encourage the Transit through Canada of the Produce of those States, with the Advantage to Canada of any manufacturing Process which it might undergo in the Transit, a Relaxation of Duty to the extent of free or nearly free Admission would have been a Relaxation not limited, as in this Case it ought to be, to the Produce of a British Colony.

It is true that the Imperial Parliament, at the Time that they admitted Canadian Produce at a Nominal Duty, might constitutionally have imposed a corresponding Duty upon the Import of American Wheat into Canada, and might thus have placed a Check upon the undue Influx of Foreign under the Name of Canadian Produce; but looking back to the Proceedings in the last Session of the Legislature of Canada, I find that such an Impost was considered and ultimately rejected; and whatever might be the view taken by Her Majesty's Government under a different State of Circumstances, in which a Tax imposed by Colonial Authority, and of course receivable into the Colonial Treasury, upon Wheat imported from the United States, might secure the Agriculturists of England against the Competition of Foreign Growers, they have been unwilling to impose such a Tax by the Authority of Parliament upon a raw Article which might be required for Home Consumption in Canada, and in the Absence of such a Tax have felt it impossible to propose to Parliament a further Reduction than that which they have submitted in favour of Wheat and Wheat Flour shipped from the Ports of Canada.

I have to request that you will take an early opportunity, after the assembling of the Provincial Parliament, of laying before them so much of this Dispatch as may put them fully in possession of the Principles on which Her Majesty's Government have proceeded in reference to Wheat and Flour imported from Canada in the general Consideration which it has been their Duty to give in the most Impartial Spirit, and with an earnest Desire to consult and conciliate all conflicting Interests to the Amendment of the Laws regulating the Importation of Corn into the British Islands.

I have, &c.

(Signed) STANLEY.

On the 28th April, 1842, Sir C. Bagot forwarded to Lord Stanley a petition from "sundry merchants, millers, agriculturists and others of the Home District, West Canada," in which it was stated, that as the law then stood the average price of grain in England was such as generally to subject the Wheat of Canada to a duty of 5s. The quantity of bread required for England, was so immense that what

Canada could furnish for many years would be too small to be felt as an injury, and yet the privilege of a free market for Wheat, supplying but a few days' consumption, would speedily elevate the Province to a condition she must otherwise be very long attaining.

On the 12th October, 1842, the Canadian Legislature passed an Act imposing a duty of 3s. per quarter on Foreign Wheat. It stated that the objection of the British Government to the free importation of Canadian Wheat and Flour arose from the free admission of Foreign Wheat into Canada, and that Lord Stanley's dispatch of the 2nd March, 1842, afforded strong ground for expecting that on the imposition of a duty on Foreign Wheat, her Majesty would recommend to Parliament, the removal or reduction of the duties on the importation of Wheat and Flour from Canada into the United Kingdom. It was, therefore, enacted that 3s. duty should be charged on all Wheat except British; the duty, fines, &c. under the Act to be paid to her Majesty's Receiver General for the Province, and form part of the Consolidated Revenue Fund thereof.

On the 27th January, 1843, a Petition was forwarded by Sir C. Bagot from the President and Council of the Quebec Board of Trade. It complained of the 2s. per barrel duty being imposed by the General Corn Law of 1842 on all Foreign Flour imported into the British North American possessions. If the Queen assented to the Canadian Act for imposing a duty of 3s. on Foreign Wheat without conferring on the Province some countervailing privilege in their trade with some other parts of the empire, the Petitioners believed the result would be the utter prostration of the trade of Canada. They, therefore, prayed that her Majesty would withhold her assent to the Canadian Act until the British Legislature had passed a law for admitting all grain and flour from Canada, duty free into the United Kingdom and other Colonies. The Governor General in his dispatch sent with the Petition, said that the Canadian Bill was passed with the expectation that all duty on Canadian Grain and Flour would be removed; and Sir Charles added, that the rate of duty fixed upon American Wheat was that originally proposed by the Vice-President of the Board of Trade on the introduction of the Colonial Customs' Bill.

At the same time was forwarded the report of a Special Committee of the Legislative Assembly of Canada, on the subject of Free Trade with Great Britain in agricultural produce and *protection from competition with Foreigners*. It contained a series of resolutions which it recommended to the Assembly. They were in substance—that to treat

Canada as an integral part of the empire, could only be done by removing all duties on grain and flour, the produce of the Province, duty free into the United Kingdom, and that when that was done, so soon as the finances of the Province for the support of the Government and its engagements for the security of the public debt would admit, it was recommended to remove all duties on the manufactures of the mother country when admitted into the ports of Canada from sea.*—that the Petitioners were confident that the revenue from Foreign commerce, and tolls on canals, would enable the Government to make the reduction in a few years after the great leading communications to the Ocean were opened. They also stated that to secure the transit of the Western States of America through those waters it was indispensable to allow a drawback on all grain and flour shipped to Great Britain from the ports on the St. Lawrence, whenever the price exceeded 30s. sterling per barrel at the ports of Montreal and Quebec.

To these documents was appended the evidence of several gentlemen engaged in the forwarding trade, given on the 30th September, 1842. Amongst other matters, it was stated in this evidence, that the average price of Wheat in England must be 60s. per quarter, to ensure the trade by the St. Lawrence; when over that, the Americans could send their own Wheat more advantageously to England *via* New York—that there was not a sufficient quantity of bread stuff grown in Canada to supply the consumption of British North America, and that Wheat could not be exported from Canada when the price was so low in England as to bring a duty on Colonial.

In these papers we find the Canadians claiming to be put on a level with Ireland so far as regards the exportation of their own produce to the mother country. This may be very reasonable and just, but the great difficulty has been to give full encouragement to *Canadian produce* without giving a large bounty for the importation of *American Wheat* into the United Kingdom, to the great injury of the British Agriculturists: this was the problem to be solved.

On the 20th March, 1843, Sir C. Bagot wrote a dispatch to Lord Stanley, stating that he had received an application from the Council of the Quebec Board of Trade on the 4th of March, requesting information as to the fate of the 3s.

*The duties on imported goods levied in Canada are imposed partly by the authority of the British Government, and partly by that of the Colonial Legislature. The crown duties are principally on wines, spirits, coffee, cocoa, sugar, and tobacco. They appear to have been framed rather for forcing trade into particular channels than for revenue. The Provincial duties have only the object of revenue.

duty bill, and relative to the abolition of duty on Canadian corn; as the season of business was now approaching it was of great importance to the inhabitants of the Province generally, that they should receive authentic information on those questions with the least possible delay.

In 1842, Sir Robert Peel carried his memorable alterations in the General Corn Laws, and the Right Honourable Baronet stated in the next Session, that in the month of February, 1842, Lord Stanley had announced to the House of Commons, the position in which the Ministers stood with regard to the pledge given to the Canadians. Many of the Members denied all recollection of such a statement, and it probably was not made in a very particular or formal manner, or when there were many Members in the House, and therefore passed unnoticed amidst the great and exciting discussions on the main question at issue.

In May, 1843, Lord Stanley presented to the House of Commons his proposition for reducing the import duty on Canadian Wheat and Flour to 1s. per quarter. The proposed measure created great alarm amongst the Agriculturists, and the debates in the Legislature during its progress were very animated. The Ministers declared themselves pledged to the Canadians to exert their influence to carry the measure, and stated that although their pledge was not binding on the British Legislature they, the Ministers, were bound in faith and honor to do their utmost in favor of it.

Sir Robert Peel observed "You must govern Canada by the good will of her people: on every other principle, the weakest point in all your Empire would be Canada, and that danger would affect all the other provinces of British North America."

The grounds of opposition to the measure were principally these—that large quantities of Wheat would be smuggled into Canada, and being there made into Flour would be poured into the United Kingdom at 1s. per quarter duty. It was said to be impossible for the Canadian Government, with so small a revenue, to keep up a sufficient force to prevent corn being smuggled over a line of 1500 miles. There were mills on both sides of the river St. Lawrence, and the factors in Canada being almost all Americans, every facility would be given to the smuggling of Wheat and even of Flour in barrels regularly marked. They would be put on board boats in the creeks and come down the river from the West. It was impossible to prevent large shipments coming down from Point Niagara, into Lake Ontario, and thence into the St. Lawrence, (perhaps by transshipping it once,) and indeed they could get the Wheat

ground into Flour in the United States and not manufacture it all in Canada: much American flour had already so come into the country. The Niagara was so narrow that a stone might almost be thrown across it, and there was only a fort at one or two places. In reply to this, Sir Robert Peel asked who ever heard of smuggling corn from France, when the duty was even 25s. or 26s. per qr.? If then, with a Channel only 20 or 30 miles across, there was no smuggling of corn from France or Belgium, was it to be imagined that with the interest of the Canadian grower to watch for himself, and the influence of the Canadian Treasury to take care that the duty be paid—with the extent of the Lakes, and with the expense of the navigation smuggling would be carried on? A quarter of Wheat weighed 500lbs., and the profit of 3s. would not tempt a smuggler. Mr. Gladstone observed that the line of frontier where smuggling was practicable was in a part of the country, which produces no Corn. This observation does not appear to be correct. Mr. Ellice said that his personal knowledge of the frontier, satisfied him that 200 quarters of American corn annually, would be the maximum that could escape the duty in Canada. It was also urged by the friends of the measure, that it was unreasonable to suppose that more United States' Wheat would be imported into Canada when there was a duty of 3s. upon it, than when it was duty free. Mr. Mitchell objected to the measure because the 3s. duty would be received by the Canadian Treasury instead of the British, and the Canadian consumer would have to pay 3s. per quarter more for his Wheat. It was also to be borne in mind that the present duties ranged from 1s. to 5s. whereas by the proposed measure this country would never receive more than a fixed duty of 1s. The reply to this was a reference to the statement of Lord Stanley, which we have before noticed that the average of the last five years had only been 2s. 1d. per quarter. It was rejoined that the cause of this was that the price of wheat here had been high, and that if it had been at the present price, the duty on Canadian wheat and flour would have not been less than five shillings.

Mr. Handley thought it would be equivalent to a fixed duty on all corn that would be imported into this country. On Dantzic Wheat the fixed duty would be about 15s. per quarter, and shipowners could easily be found to carry Dantzic corn to Canada and bring it here as Colonial corn. As an argument in favor of the measure, it was said that under the existing law no duty was payable until the article was taken from the warehouse here for consumption. Under the proposed Act, 3s. would be paid by the

Americans on the grain many months before it could come here, and form a charge upon it in the process of grinding and during the time of transit. On the other side it was said that the 3s. duty would make the corn dearer to the Canadian consumer; and that to increase the expence of living in the country would check emigration. It was suggested that the Canadian Legislature might, at any time, repeal the 3s. duty, but that was met by the fact that such a measure could not be adopted without the consent of the Queen. The discussions terminated in the passing of the Bill, which received the Royal Assent on the 12th July, 1843.

The following is a copy of the Act

An Act for reducing the Duty on Wheat and Wheat Flour, the produce of the Province of Canada, imported thence into the United Kingdom.—12th July, 1843.

“Whereas on the 12th day of October, 1842, an Act was passed by the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of the Province of Canada, and reserved by the Governor General for the signification of Her Majesty’s pleasure, imposing a Duty of 3s. sterling money of Great Britain, on each imperial quarter of Wheat imported into Canada, except from the United Kingdom or any of Her Majesty’s possessions, and being the growth and produce thereof. And whereas it is recited in the said Act that it was passed in the confident belief and expectation, that upon the imposition of a Duty upon Foreign Wheat imported into the Province, Her Majesty would be graciously pleased to recommend to parliament the removal or reduction of the Duties on Wheat and Wheat Flour imported into the said United Kingdom from Canada. And whereas in consideration of the Duty so imposed by the said Act of the Legislature of Canada, it is expedient that if Her Majesty shall be pleased to give Her sanction to the said Act, the Duties imposed by an Act (5 and 6 Vic. c. 14.) made and passed in the last Session of Parliament, intituled *An Act to amend the Laws for the importation of Corn*, upon Wheat and Wheat Flour, the produce of and imported from the Province of Canada, entered for home consumption in the United Kingdom, should be reduced as hereinafter mentioned,” Be it therefore enacted by the Queen’s most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords spiritual and temporal and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, That from and after the 10th day of October, 1843, and thenceforth during the continuance of the Duty so imposed by the said Act of the Legislature of Canada as aforesaid, there shall be levied and paid upon all Wheat and Wheat Flour, the produce of the said Province of Canada which shall be imported thence into the United Kingdom after the said 10th day of October, and shall be entered for home consumption (the same having been shipped and imported with such declarations and certificates as are required in respect thereof, in and by the said Act passed in the last Session of Parliament) in lieu of the Duties charged thereon by the said Act of Parliament, the Duties following, (namely)

For every quarter of such Wheat 1s. and so in proportion for a less quantity. For every barrel being 196 pounds of such Wheat Flour, a Duty equal in amount to the Duty which would hereby be payable upon 38 gallons

and a half of Wheat, and so in proportion for a less quantity. And the said Duties hereby charged shall be levied, collected, paid and applied, in such and the same manner in all respects, as if the same had been imposed by the said Act of Parliament, provided always, that nothing in this Act contained shall repeal, reduce, or alter the Duties payable under the said Act of Parliament upon Wheat or Wheat Flour, the produce of *Canada*, which shall be imported into the United Kingdom previous to the said 10th day of October, 1843, notwithstanding the same shall not be entered from the warehouse or otherwise for home consumption until after that day.

And be it enacted, that this Act may be amended or repealed by any Act to be passed in this present Session of Parliament.

OPERATION OF THE ACT UP TO THE PRESENT TIME.

From the varied forms in which the Parliamentary Returns relative to the subject are given, it is difficult to present anything like a complete synopsis of them, but the following particulars will be found to bear upon the question at issue, by showing the quantities of Wheat and Flour imported before and after the passing of the Act, the rate of duty, &c. They are all taken from official documents.

Until the 10th October, 1843, when the Act 6—7 Vict. c. 29, came into operation, the official returns combined, without distinction, the importations of Wheat and Flour from Canada with those from the other North American Colonies.

Wheat and Wheat Flour imported into the 10 principal ports of Great Britain, and entered for home consumption from the 28th April, 1842, to 5th January, 1843.

Foreign.....2,383,431 qrs.
Colonial..... 177,414 qrs.

The highest rate of duty on Foreign was 20s. the lowest 8s.

The average duty on Foreign was 14s. 3½d.; on Colonial 2s. 8½d.

Wheat and Wheat Flour imported and entered for home consumption in the year ending 5th January, 1843.

Foreign before the 29th April.....	Qrs.	4,719	Qrs.	
ditto after ditto		2,770,594		2,775,313
Colonial before the 29th April		20,269		
ditto after ditto		194,062		214,331
				2,989,644

Wheat and Flour from all parts imported and entered for home consumption in the United Kingdom in the year, ending 5th January, 1844.

Quarters of Wheat 872,715; cwts. of Flour 425,698, together equal to 994,343 qrs. of Wheat. Of these quantities 24,816 qrs. of Wheat, and 396,479 cwts. of Flour (together equal to 138,095 qrs. of Wheat) were from the British Colonies.

The following are the countries from which the much larger part of the Importations came.

	Qrs. of Wheat.	Cwts. of Flour.
Prussia	658,711	5,164
Germany	126,105	2,298
Denmark	69,767	887
Russia	33,666	5
Egypt	11,540	
United States	2,383	91,317
East Indies and Ceylon ...	621	11,310

Wheat and Flour entered for home consumption from all parts, in the 11 months ending 5th December, 1844, 812,721 qrs. of Wheat: 687,706 cwts of Flour; together equal to 1,009,208 qrs. of Wheat.

Wheat and Wheat Flour entered for home consumption, with the average rate of duty, from 29th April, 1842, to 5th January, 1844.

	Qrs. of Wheat.	Average rate of duty. s. d.	Cwts. of Flour.	Average rate of duty. s. d.
Foreign	3,464,618	9 10	554,559	3 0
Colonial	46,216	2 3	737,311	0 8
From Canada, from 10th Oct. 1843, to 5th January, 1844.	12,412	1 0	220,117	0 4½

Together equal to 3,955,242 qrs. of Wheat.

Colonial Wheat and Wheat Flour entered for home consumption,

From January 1841 to December 1841	Qrs. 259,601
In the year up to December 1842,	
Before the Act of 1842,	Qrs. 20,269
After the Act,	194,062 214,331

Entered for home consumption of Colonial Wheat and Wheat Flour, from the 15th July, 1828, to 29th April, 1842,
Wheat 597,700 qrs.

Wheat Flour 1,744,591 cwt.

Together equal to 1,096,154 qrs. of Wheat, of which 681,188 paid 5s. duty, and 414,966 paid 6d. duty.

From 29th April, 1842, to 5th Jan. 1843,	Qrs. of Wheat.	33,809
Ditto	Cwts. of Flour.	560,866
Together equal to 194,061 qrs. of Wheat, of which 170,703 qrs. paid 1s. duty, 6,602—3s. and 16,756—5s.		

The total quantities and average rate of Duty received on Wheat and Wheat Flour imported and entered for home consumption from the British Colonies into the United Kingdom, from the 15th July, 1828, to the 5th January, 1843.

	Qrs. of Wheat.	Average rate of duty paid. s. d.	Wheat Flour per cwt.	Average rate of duty paid. s. d.
1828	14,908	4 7	14,214	1 8
1829	7,232	1 6	4,965	1 8
1830	46,419	0 10	48,132	0 3
1831	112,699	2 0	88,725	1 4
1832	163,964	4 10	105,147	1 9
1833	61,215	4 10	74,093	1 8
1834	45,631	4 11	65,212	1 8
1835	15,302	5 2	42,349	1 8
1836	18,583	5 0	36,656	1 8
1837	22,538	5 0	37,873	1 8
1838	7,740	1 11	76,381	0 8
1839	32	0 6	44,478	0 2
1840	4,704	4 0	380,668	0 8
1841	64,690	1 9	676,477	0 9
1842, to 29th Ap.	8,688	5 0	40,534	1 8
Total under Act 9, } Geo. 4. c. 60. }	594,345	3 7	1,735,904	1 0
Total under Act 5, } Vict. c. 14. from } 29th April, 1842, to } 5th January, 1843. }	33,809	1 7	560,886	0 6

Quantities of Wheat and Wheat Flour, the produce of Canada, imported (for home consumption) from the 10th of October, 1843, to the 5th of July, 1844.

	Wheat.		Wheat Flour.	
	Qrs.	bus.	Cwts.	qrs. lbs.
Into Great Britain...	18,199	6	262,506	1 2
Into Ireland	—		4,007	1 10
Total	18,199	6	266,513	2 12
Together equal to 94,345 qrs. of Wheat.				

Fluctuations of duty on Colonial Wheat, from 1838 to 1842.

		s.	d.
1838.	From 5th January to 13th July	5	0
	— 20th July to 28th September... ..	0	6
	— 5th October to 2nd November	5	0
	— 9th November to 28th December.....	0	6
1839.	— 4th January to 20th December.....	0	6
	26th December.....	5	0
1840.	From 3rd January to 13th March	5	0
	— 20th March to 25th September.....	0	6
	— 2nd October to 25th December	5	0
1841.	— 1st. January to 6th August	5	0
	— 13th August to 1st October	0	6
	— 8th October to 24th December	5	0
1842.	— 7th January to 29th April.....	5	0
	— 6th May to 3rd September.....	1	0
	10th September.....	3	0
	From 17th September to 31st December ...	5	0

Colonial Wheat and Wheat Flour imported and entered for home consumption from 5th November, 1842, to 5th October, 1843.

WHEAT.

FLOUR.

Month ending.	Imported.		Entered for Home Consumption.		Imported.		Entered for Home Consumption.	
	Qrs.	Bus.	Qrs.	Bus.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Cwts.	Qrs.
5 Nov. 1842	858	2	243	2	13,627	2	8,785	3
5 Dec.	415	6	574	6	20,355	2	12,922	1
5 Jan. 1843	6,464	7	3,492	1	65,954	2	22,251	2
5 Feb.	1,914	7	1,911	2	25,814	2	13,080	2
5 Mar.	1,266	0	1,095	3	1,489	3	14,738	1
5 Apl.	1,573	4	1,070	4	3,970	2	14,060	2
5 May	166	5	925	6	711	2	21,880	1
5 June	314	6	1,128	6	35	2	6,517	3
5 July	700	4	1,291	0	15,411	2	21,281	0
5 Aug.	268	3	682	2	31,776	2	30,820	0
5 Sep.	1,076	1	2,121	5	21,016	2	37,369	3
5 Oct.	—		895	3	4,280	2	8,949	3
	15,019	5	15,432	0	206,441	1	212,654	5

The above quantities brought into quarters of Wheat reckoning 2 barrels of Flour (each weighing 196 lbs.) equal to a quarter of Wheat, give the following totals.

	Cwts.	Wheat	Entered for H. Con.
Flour	206,441	equal to	58,983
	212,654	ditto	60,758
		Quarters	74,002
			76,190

Official Return of the Total Quantities of Wheat and Wheat Flour imported under the Act 6 and 7 Vic. c. 29. from Canada, into the principal Ports of Great Britain, viz. London, Liverpool, Hull, Newcastle, Bristol, Gloucester, Plymouth, Leith, Dundee, and Perth,* in the several weeks following the receipt of the certificate of the average prices.

Weeks ending,	Wheat and Flour imported.	Entered for Home Consumption.	Weeks ending,	Wheat and Flour imported.	Entered for Home Consumption.
	Qrs. Bus.	Qrs. Bus.		Qrs. Bus.	Qrs. Bus.
12 Oct. 1843.	92 0	92 0	11 April, 1844	0 3	0 3
19	1009 1	1009 1	18	—	4 2
26	3478 6	3478 6	25	—	120 2
2 Nov.	9622 0	9622 0	2 May	—	—
9	5825 6	5813 4	9	—	—
16	1955 6	2024 4	16	—	—
23	3240 6	4869 7	23	—	—
30	6268 2	5318 0	30	—	—
7 Dec.	4720 6	3948 0	6 June	—	—
14	8818 4	8706 0	13	1,091 3	1,151 4
21	6677 0	6635 1	20	7,705 7	8,659 6
28	5366 1	5367 5	27	1,234 0	1,353 7
4 Jan. 1844.	1361 3	2227 2	4 July	12,256 5	11,588 7
11	1664 0	2101 7	11	19,637 6	20,215 4
18	2666 5	1936 3	18	12,733 6	13,652 5
25	2712 0	1974 3	25	20,375 0	19,330 6
1 Feb.	878 5	532 1	1 August	16,969 6	16,421 2
8	233 2	231 4	8	3,629 0	4,374 5
15	115 7	423 7	15	25,364 4	26,990 6
22	52 5	52 5	22	9,829 1	10,258 4
29	—	48 1	29	7,926 1	6,009 5
7 March	1 2	1 2	5 Sept.	11,287 2	8,511 2
14	3 5	3 5	12	28,699 5	29,593 1
21	—	24 0	19	3,926 5	3,684 2
28	10 6	10 6	26	5,190 7	7,564 4
4 April	—	60 1	3 Oct.	9,234 0	8,905 6

Total from 12th Oct. 1843, to 3rd Oct. 1844. 263,866 3 265,406 6

10 Oct.. 4,693 7 3,597 5

17 6,631 3 4,996 6

24 853 5 856 2

31 2,223 7 3,922 6

7 Nov. 6,863 5 4,814 7

14 3,128 4 3,887 6

21 2,874 5 2,882 0

28 3,558 2 2,821 3

5 Dec. 41 1 799 7

12 725 7 1,366 0

19 688 4 695 0

Total from 12th Oct. 1843, to 19th Dec. 1844. 296,154 5 296,047 0

* These 10 are the only ports which make a return to the Inspector General of exports and imports. The quantity of Wheat and Wheat Flour from Canada imported into other places in this country is very small. The whole imported into Ireland from 10th October, 1843, to 5th July, 1844, was but 4007 cwts. of Flour.

Quantities of, and rates of Duty on, Wheat and Wheat Flour entered for home consumption from all the British Possessions in North America, except Canada.

	Qrs.	Bush.	Duty.
From 28th Sept. to 28th Dec. 1843	3372	5	5s.
— 4th Jan. 1844, to 21st Mar. 1844	325	1	5s.
— 28th March, 1844	62	7	4s.
— 4th April to 11th April	1303	5	3s.
— 18th April to 25th July	4763	1	4s.
— 1st August to 19th December	3622	8	5s.

13,450 3

In 1841 the population of England and Wales was 15,911,725. Mr. Charles Smith, in his celebrated "Three Tracts on the Corn Trade and Corn Laws," estimated the annual consumption of Wheat in England and Wales, at one quarter per head for each individual, and McCulloch considers that estimate tolerably correct also for the present time.

Taking this for granted and adding 800,000 as the increase of population up to the present time, it appears that in the 12 months (ending 5th October, 1843) previous to the Canada Corn Law of 1843 coming into operation, the quantity of Wheat and Wheat Flour from *all* the British Colonies, entered for home consumption in the United Kingdom, was equal to the consumption of England and Wales for a little more than one day and 16 hours.

The quantity of Wheat and Flour *from Canada alone*, since the Canada Corn Law came into operation (the 10th October, 1843) to the 3rd October, 1844, entered for home consumption in the United Kingdom, was equal to the consumption of England and Wales for 5 days and 19 hours.

Monthly average duty on Colonial Wheat entered for home consumption in 1842.

	s.	d.		s.	d.		s.	d.		s.	d.
January	5	0	April	1	3	July	1	0	Oct.	4	4
February	4	11	May	1	0	Aug.	1	0	Nov.	5	0
March	5	0	June	0	11	Sept.	2	5	Dec.	5	0

THE FUTURE OPERATION OF THE ACT.

The next branch of the enquiry is the probable future operation of the Act of 1843. With this is connected the consideration of the following circumstances:—The Agricultural capability of Canada—the prices of Wheat grown in the Colony—the expense of inland and foreign transit—the supply of United States' Wheat—and the probability of the latter being smuggled into Canada. In a former page particulars are stated relative to the natural

fertility of the soil, particularly in Upper Canada, and it must be expected that, with the rapid increase of the population, the tide of British capital and labour year after year flowing thither and the impetus given by the Act of 1843, the Canadians will be induced to raise much more Wheat than hitherto.

The accounts from Canada, last season, gave abundant proofs of the increasing attention paid to the agriculture of the country and of its success.

"The Times of the 16th September, referring to the Montreal Papers says "The Prospects of Agriculture this year are stated to be very good. The Wheat raising in the Lower Province had been particularly successful, the crops having suffered but little from the Fly, the usual curse of the Canadian farmers, and hardly at all from the rust. The accounts also from Upper Canada are very flattering. "The Morning Post of the same day says" The Wheat crops throughout East and West Canada are most abundant and show the certainty of a larger yield than was ever before known in our North American Colonies. The Editor of the Farmers' Magazine, (for August) observes "The accounts from Canada generally describe the prospect in regard to the harvest as most promising and a much greater breadth than usual under Wheat."

A Letter from Montreal, 9th November, says "The quantity of produce for shipment next Spring must be large; at present it remains principally in the hands of the farmers, who are unwilling to accept the prices now offering."

When we are taking into consideration the capability of Canada for growing large quantities of Corn, we must not forget that there are circumstances which give reason to believe that the Agricultural produce of the country will rapidly increase. At a recent Meeting of the Essex Agricultural Protection Society at Chelmsford, Mr. Du Croz, a gentleman intimately acquainted with Canada, in pointing out the mischievous effects of the Corn Law of 1843, said, "Look at the relative position of the farmers in Canada, and those of this country! The mother country pays the greater part of the public expenditure of the Colony:—its army, its navy, are principally paid by Great Britain. The fee simple of the best land in Canada, except in some particular places, does not cost more than the rent of land in this country, and the expense of transfer is next to nothing, no stamps being necessary. There are no tithes, highway rate, poor's rate, or county rate."

With respect to the sale of land, we find that from the year 1826 to 1836 the Canada company had sold 670,000

acres out of their purchase of 2,484,413 acres from Government. In the Huron tract, the average price was 10s. 8d. per acre, and in other quarters 12s. 4d.; in 1838 their sales in consequence of the insurrection were but 13,299 acres, the price of which, in the Crown Reserves and the Guelph territory, (some of the best in the Province) varied from 15s. 9d. to 10s. 11d., and in the Huron tract from 13s. 7d. to 10s. 3d. The British American Land Company held their Annual Meeting in London, on the 28th March, 1844, and their Report stated, that during the preceding year they had sold 34,859½ acres in the Eastern District for £17,031 19s. 4d., being about 10s. per acre. The Company still had about 653,500 acres in the Eastern District.

By an Act of the Local Legislature passed in September, 1841, it was provided that the waste lands of the Crown should be sold at a price to be fixed from time to time, by the Governor in Council. The prices fixed for the present are Upper Canada 6s. 7d. sterling per acre; Lower Canada in Ottawa County, and South of the St. Lawrence, to the West of the Kennebec road 4s. 11d. and elsewhere in that division 3s. 3½d.

The Canada Company grant leases of their land in the Huron District to persons not having ready cash, for 12 years, at small annual rents, commencing one year from the date of the lease, at the expiration of which lease, and the punctual payment of the yearly rents, the settler will receive a deed for the freehold of the land he occupies, without further charge. The rent for 100 acres at the end of the first year is £2 currency, and increases yearly, until at the end of the 12th year £16 10s. is paid, making the total paid in the 12 years £110 5s. 0d.

Mc. Culloch in his Geographical Dictionary, 1841, gives the following statement.

	Acres cultivated,	Acres occupied but uncultivated.
Upper Canada.....	1,368,307	4,394,169
Lower Canada.....	2,066,213	4,981,793
	3,374,520	9,375,962

Murray makes the following statement,

	Lower Canada in 1831.	Upper Canada in 1835.
Families employed in Agriculture	50,824	
Ditto Trade	2,503	
Acres of Land under Cultivation	2,065,913	1,308,307½
Occupied but unimproved	3,981,713	4,394,169

A small tax, not exceeding 1d. in the pound is levied both on cultivated and waste lands, the former being valued at 20s. the acre, and the latter at 4s. Mc Culloch says that

the whole amount of taxation of a farm of 100 acres in the Upper Province is about 18s.

The Canadian Government is taking active measures for improving and extending the means of land and water carriage by forming roads and canals. By an Act 5—6 Vict. c. 118, (1842), Great Britain guaranteed the payment of the dividend and interest at 4 per cent. on a loan of £1,500,000 that might be required by the Canadian Government for public works.

The 43rd clause of the Act for uniting the Provinces of Canada (3—4 Vict. c. 35) recites an Act passed in the 18th George III. c. 12, which declares that the King and Parliament of Great Britain would not impose any duty, tax, or assessment whatever, payable in any of His Majesty's colonies, &c., except only such duties as it might be expedient to impose for the regulation of commerce, the net produce of such duties to be always paid and applied to and for the use of the portion of the empire in which the same shall be respectively levied in such manner as other duties collected by the authority of the respective general courts or general assemblies were ordinarily paid and applied. The clause then goes on to establish these provisions—to retain in the Imperial Parliament the right to impose such duties as may be necessary for the regulation of navigation and commerce; but provides that the produce of all such duties levied within the province shall be at the disposal of the local Legislature, by and with the assent of Her Majesty.

We shall conclude this part of our "Notes" with the average prices of some descriptions of Produce and Provisions, and rates of wages, as given in official returns.

	Lower Canada.			Upper Canada.		
	1841.			1842.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Horned Cat- tle per yoke }	9	0	0	10	0	0
Horses each	10	0	0	15	0	0
Sheep ditto	0	10	0	0	12	6
Wheaten bread 6 pounds }	0	0	7	0	0	8
Beef per lb.	0	0	2	0	0	4
Mutton ditto	0	0	2½	0	0	4
Pork per 100lbs.	1	5	0	0	9	0
Tea ditto	0	3	0	0	4	0
Sugar (soft) do.	0	0	0	0	0	5
Beer per gallon	0	0	0	0	0	10½
Domestic wa- ges per month }	0	0	0	1	10	0
Husbandry with board do. }	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ditto with ditto	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trades per day	0	4	0	0	6	0

Before noticing the price of Wheat in Canada, it may be useful to give the following statement of the average prices of Wheat in England and Wales, from the year 1828 to 1843.

	S.	D.		S.	D.		S.	D.		S.	D.
1828	60	5	1832	58	8	1836	48	6	1840	66	4
1829	66	3	1833	52	11	1837	55	10	1841	64	4
1830	64	3	1834	46	2	1838	64	7	1842	57	3
1831	66	4	1835	39	4	1839	70	8	1843	50	0

Imperial average prices of Wheat for the last week of each month in 1844.

	S.	D.		S.	D.		S.	D.
January	52	3	May	55	10	Sept.	45	9
February	55	1	June	55	9	Oct.	46	0
March	56	5	July	52	9	Nov.	45	4
April	55	6	August	50	11	Dec.	45	6

Official return of the average prices of Wheat and Flour, the produce of Canada and the United States at Montreal, in Halifax currency.*

CANADA.

UNITED STATES.

	Wheat per qr.		Flour per barrel.			Wheat per qr.		Flour per barrel.	
	S.	D.	S.	D.		S.	D.	S.	D.
1831	55	4	32	6	Could not be ascertained.				
1832	47	4	33	9	ditto				
1833	47	4	28	3				30	0
1834	40	8	25	6		40	0	26	0
1835	40	8	25	7	Exported to the United States.				
1836	46	8	30	0		54	0	33	9
1837	56	0	41	4		52	0	35	0
1838	56	0	39	0		60	0	38	9
1839	57	4	36	6		54	0	36	0
1840	46	0	29	11		50	0	29	6
1841	49	4	29	4		46	0	28	10
1842	46	0	28	1		44	0	27	7
1843	40	0	25	0		42	8	25	11

Annual average price of Wheat per bushel at Dundas in Upper Canada.

	S.	D.		S.	D.
1837	51	1½	1841	36	0½
1838	47	7½	1842	36	2½
1839	32	2½	1843	26	5½
1840	29	7½			

* As before stated (page 8)—Halifax currency is about 20 per cent inferior to British. Thus in 1843 the price of Canada Wheat was 40s. currency or £1 13s. 4d. sterling.

In the report of a Special Committee of the Legislative Assembly of Canada in January 1843, are the following statements. Wheat must command 4s. 6d. sterling per bushel, to remunerate the Canadian growers—Flour must command in Britain 33s. per barrel to ensure the Canadian growers a remunerating price*—If grain cannot be exported to England at a profit to the Canadian growers unless flour reaches 33s. per bushel, and Wheat 60s. to 61s. per qr., the transit of Western Flour will be diverted through the Erie Canal, and it follows that unless prices in England steadily range from 55s. to 61s. per quarter, Canadian growers cannot benefit by the home market, and their carrying trade will become so uncertain that few if any will embark in it—One gentleman giving evidence before the Legislative Assembly in September 1842, said, the averages in England must be 60s. per quarter to ensure the trade by the St. Lawrence, and that when it is over that, the Americans can send their own Wheat more advantageously to England via New York.†

We now come to the question of the facilities and expence of transit. On this, as was said by Colonel Rushbrooke, in the House of Commons, the statements are so various that it is difficult to arrive at the truth. The Editor of the Farmers' Magazine says "From Ohio, and other Western States' the most productive districts in the American Union, the water distance to Montreal is considerably shorter than is that to New York, and the expence of transit through the Lakes Huron, Erie, and Ontario, (now we may say rendered one by means of the Welland Canal) is in comparison much cheaper than to any port of shipment within the United States. Mc Culloch, p. 426, says the cost of importation from the United States to this country, is from 13s. to 14s. per quarter for Wheat; in p. 428, he says the price of carriage and warehousing of Wheat exported from Canada to Liverpool, is 13s. In the Farmers' Magazine of Feb. 1844, is the following announcement, "By the Hibernian steam packet we learn that a ship had been actually loaded at the head of Lake Huron itself, with Wheat, and had sailed direct for London by way of the Welland Canal. Thus the Canadian Corn Bill is scarcely made public when a cargo of Wheat, most probably from Ohio, Michigan, or some other of the Western Provinces of the United States, is shipped direct to London from that part of our possessions, which is nearest to those of our own Transatlantic brethren in those regions." On the other hand, Dr. Mc Culloch says,

*The price of Canadian Flour in the London market has for some time been only from 25s. to 28s. per barrel of 196 lbs.

†In several of our pages we quote from Papers furnished by the Canadians to the British Government, but we recommend our readers to consider how the results have thus far justified many of the statements contained in those Papers.

"The United States' Corn imported under this Law [of 1843] must be derived partly from the Western part of the State of New York bordering on Lake Ontario, but principally no doubt from the Northern parts of Ohio bordering on Lake Erie. The navigation thence to Montreal, partly by natural and partly by artificial channels is tedious, difficult, and expensive, and when the Wheat has arrived at the latter or at Quebec, and been ground, the voyage to England is longer, the risk greater, and the rate of freight materially higher than from New York or Baltimore." The Montreal papers state that on the 2nd of November, 1844, the freight of Flour from that port to Liverpool and the Clyde, was from 4s. 6l. to 5s. per barrel.

Mr. Hubback, a Liverpool merchant of great experience says "The rate of freight from all the main shipping points on the United States' side of Lake Erie, to any one point in Canada, is generally the same at the same time; i. e. the freight on the 1st July from Buffalo, Cleveland, Sandusky, or Detroit, to Kingston would be the same. The freight from all points on Lake Michigan to any one point in Canada is the same. The difference of freight between Lakes Michigan and Erie, is met by the difference in the price of Wheat; thus, supposing Wheat at Cleveland 75 cents per bushel, and freight to Kingston 10 cents, at Chicago, Wheat at the same time will be 65 cents, and freight to Kingston 20 cents. The principal ports in Canada to which Wheat from the United States' side is sent are St. Catherine's on the Welland Canal (the most important) Toronto, Kingston, and Prescott. The rate of freight from any port on the United States' side of Lake Erie is

	cents.	average.
To St. Catherine's	5 to 8 per bushel	6 to 7
Toronto or Kingston	7 12	9 10
Prescott	10 16	12 13

From Chicago on Lake Michigan to St. Catherine's, the freight ranges from 13 to 18 cents per bushel. The insurance from Lake Michigan to Lake Ontario ranges from 1 to 2 per cent according to the season; from Lake Erie to St. Catherine's $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The usual length of passage from Cleveland to St. Catherine's is 4 days, from St. Catherine's to Montreal 10 or 11 days; from Chicago on Lake Michigan to St. Catherine's is very uncertain, especially in the spring and fall, say 15 to 30 days."

In the report of the Special Committee of the Legislative Assembly of Canada, in January, 1843, it was stated that the cost of conveying a barrel of flour from the Welland Canal, by way of the St. Lawrence to any part of the United Kingdom was 14s. 6d.—that the freight from Cleveland (Ohio)

to Lake Ontario was 1s. 6d.—that the cost of transit to Liverpool through the Erie Canal is 3s. 1½d. less than by the way of the Saint Lawrence.*

In the memorial of Earl Mountcashel, &c. (vide page 5) it was stated that the freightage of a barrel of Flour from Cleveland to Kingston, was 1s. 10½d. from Kingston to Montreal 2s., other charges up to that port 2s. 8½d., charges from Montreal to and in Liverpool 7s. 11d. making a total from Cleveland to Liverpool of 14s. 6d.

In the course of the debates on the Bill, Lord Stanley stated that a large portion of the Flour which came into this country from Canada was not the produce of Canada, but of the United States—the Great States of the West—Illinois, Ohio, and Indiana.

There can be little doubt that whatever quantity of United States' Wheat may be imported into the United Kingdom through the medium of Canada, the principal portion of it will be the growth of the Western States; and let us reflect on what was said by Mr. Curtis, an American, at the Manchester Corn Law Conference of Dissenting Ministers, in August, 1841. He said "The portion of our country best adapted to the culture of Wheat, and to which I wish to call your particular attention, is comprised in the 6 North Western States and Territories, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and Iowa: they contain more than 178,000,000 acres of land, chiefly arable. England contains 32,000,000 acres. That portion of their States which may be called good Wheat land at 3 qrs. per acre, would produce in a year 200,000,000. qrs. They are at present just commencing to pour the immense amount of bread and meat they are capable of producing into the markets of the world. Ohio alone last year had 8,000,000 bushels of Wheat to export. Michigan, which never exported till 1839, has now a surplus of 250,000 bushels of Wheat, and 300,000 barrels of pork. The population of these States is now 3,000,000. It has increased during the last 10 years at the rate of 202 per cent. It has been estimated by practical men that the amount of their exports would be doubled or trebled by a good demand in 10 years."

A gentleman long resident in Canada states that much of the American Corn and Flour is finer than any Dantzic, and when the Wheat comes to market it is very hard and does not sweat. It was also stated in the House of Commons by Mr. G. Palmer, that American Flour would be considerably better in condition after it had been six months ground, than any English. American Flour, three years after it was imported, was as good as when it came out of the mill.

* Vide note in page 34.

We must also consider the time of year when the American harvest is ready. Mr. Hubback says that the crops are secured in ordinary years from 4 to 6 weeks earlier in the United States, than in this country. "I have seen" he says "in Virginia and Maryland large fields of Wheat entirely cleared by the 10th of July. At New York and Baltimore I have seen cargoes of Wheat (at the former port some 600 to 700 quarters from North Carolina and Virginia) on sale during the first and second weeks in August. The nature of the American climate is so dry that by a little care and management those cargoes might have been made fit to stand a voyage across the Atlantic. The average passage from America is from 18 to 25 days, therefore the Wheat might be in the English markets at the very time when the English farmer stood most in need of protection." "In another part of his pamphlet, speaking of the new Laws, he says—"At present so trifling a concession is not likely to be much felt. When the States of Michigan and Illinois with the territory of Wisconsin become more populous, the cultivation of Wheat is certain to become much extended. The business of converting American Wheat into Flour is therefore likely to be a growing one."

The only official return published of the quantity of Wheat imported from the United States into Canada since the 10th October, 1843, goes no further than the 5th July, 1844, and is as follows.

	Qrs.
By sea	634
By inland navigation or land carriage.....	21,161
Total.....	31,795

On the 5th of May, 1843, a Public Meeting was held at Chelmsford, in Essex, to consider the propriety of petitioning Parliament against the measure announced to be brought forward for reducing the duties on Canadian Wheat and Flour. Much had been said in various publications of the facility the alteration would afford to the smuggling of United States' Wheat into Canada, and to remove objections to the measure, a Letter written by a member of the British Government, was laid before the Chelmsford Meeting. The following is an extract from the Letter, "Smuggling is utterly impossible, 1. Because wheat is never smuggled; much less at such a duty. The smuggler gets 3s. to 5s. for smuggling a pound of silk. He will not smuggle 400 or 500 times that weight for less money. 2. How is it possible to land the Wheat on the sea beach (for the Lakes are Seas.) Then why is not Wheat landed on the sea beach of

England, in parts where there is no coast guard, and where the premium is 6 times as large, but if it is to be landed in the Ports, there are Custom House Officers. 3. Because the whole population is hostile, the 3s. duty is a protective one to them; and they would be unpaid perpetual watchmen against its evasion."

The United States' law has provided the following protection against illegal exportation of Flour. All sorts of Flour exported from the United States, must previously be examined by Inspectors. The barrels must be of certain dimensions, and each barrel is to contain 193lbs of Flour. The Inspector also decides on the quality of the Flour, the first or best sort being branded *superfine*; the second *fine*; the third *fine middlings*; the fourth *middlings*. Such as are not merchantable are marked *bad*, and their exportation is prohibited. The penalty for exporting without inspection is 5 dollars per barrel; for altering or counterfeiting brands 100 dollars.

It is also enacted that Wheat and Flour from Canada, shall only be admitted here under the declaration and certificates required by the Act of 1812, and which are in substance as follows,—

The owner, proprietor, or shipper, must make a declaration in writing before the Chief Officer of Customs, at the port of shipment, specifying the quantity of grain or flour, and that the same is the produce of Canada; the Officer then has to give a certificate of the quantity so declared to be shipped. Before the grain or flour is entered at any port in the United Kingdom, the master of the ship must deliver to the Chief Officer of Customs at that port, a copy of the declaration, certified by the Chief Officer of Customs at the port of shipment, together with the certificate of the latter with regard to quantity. The master has also to make a declaration in writing before the Chief Officer at the British port, that the several quantities of grain and flour are the same that are mentioned in the declaration and certificate produced by him, without any admixture or addition. The penalty for any false statement respecting the place of which the grain or corn is the produce, or respecting the identity of the grain or flour is £100, and forfeiture of the grain or flour.

On Lord Stanley asserting that there would be no smuggling, Mr. G. Banks complained that the Ministers made that assertion without sufficient previous enquiry as to the fact: even so late as the 1st February, 1843, they had no information upon it, as appeared from the dispatch of Lord Stanley to Sir C. Bagot on that day. The question was not, whether there were 1500 miles of frontier—whether

there was more or less facility for landing goods in a secret manner: the question of smuggling did not turn so much upon the illicit landing as upon the frauds of those employed to prevent it. He believed that if a Committee had been appointed to enquire into the matter ample evidence would have been obtained to show the facility there would be for smuggling. Mr. Labouchere said it might be for the interest of the Canadian farmers to prevent smuggling (though he was not quite sure even of that), but he wished to know whether it would also be for the interest of the corn factors or millers, who were generally Americans or persons connected with the United States?

It is often asked why should there be any greater quantity of American Wheat poured into Canada from America when there is a duty of 3s. upon it than when it was duty free. This question is in a great measure answered by the following observations.

Mr. Hubback, in his pamphlet, published in 1843, after touching on the large quantities of Wheat that may be raised in the Western States of America, says "Should it be asked if Wheat can be grown in such quantities in the Western States of America, and at so low a price, how is it that such insignificant importations have hitherto taken place from thence compared with those from other countries? My reply is that the Corn Trade in America being yet in its infancy, is not a distinct branch of business as it is in Europe. In New Orleans there are neither corn merchants nor granaries; shipments of either Wheat or Flour are, therefore, seldom or never made on American account; and British importers prefer sending their orders to where the trade is thoroughly known, to trusting their shipments, especially of so delicate an article as Wheat, to inexperienced parties." Mr. Buckingham (in his "America" v. 1 p. 160) who was at New York in 1838, mentions a circumstance which may be taken as a cause for the United States having been for some years not in a situation to export much corn. He says "In the late mania for speculation the cultivators of the soil, instead of following up their agricultural pursuits, left off farming to become speculators in stock, buyers of shares in railroads never begun and canals never opened, as well as purchasers of lots of land on which towns were *intended* to be built; in which extravagant schemes they spent all their time and money; so that agriculture, *the great basis of national wealth and the surest and steadiest security of individual prosperity* in these fertile States was so neglected that the country was obliged to import grain

for its own consumption, instead of supplying, as it ought to do, from its own surplus, the older countries of Europe. This deficiency of home supply and the vast amount of grain grown in America distilled into ardent spirits, this finest grain producing country on the globe, was obliged to import its own food. It was stated in the New York Papers that in the year 1837, the single port of Baltimore alone received 800,000 bushels of Wheat, and 140,000 bushels of rye from Europe." Mc Culloch says that in the year ending 30th September, 1837, 3,921,259 bushels of foreign Wheat were imported into the United States, of which 792,675 were from England. The causes thus assigned for the small exportation of corn from the United States, are probably as far as they go, correct, but there is reason to believe that the Americans are rousing from their agricultural lethargy, for it is stated by Mc Culloch, that in the year 1840 the United States exported 1,720,860 bushels of Wheat, and 1,807,501 barrels of Flour. But we must add that in the next year there was a decrease, the quantities exported being only 868,585 bushels of Wheat, and 1,515,817 barrels of Flour.

Before concluding we will add the following statements from Montreal Market letters* of the exports from that port and Quebec, since the Act came into operation.

	Qrs. of Wheat.	Bar. of Flour.
From Montreal, 8th Nov. 1844.....	234,076	197,047
Quebec.....	26,886	204,868
Total to 8th November, 1844	260,962	401,915
Total to 8th November, 1843	76,802	130,316

Arrivals at Montreal to 8th November, 1844, by canal and river.

	Bushels of Wheat.	Bar. of Flour.
Canada	374,088	465,267
United States	44,921	112,332
	419,009	577,611
Up to the 8th November, 1843.....	261,486	577,601

The following prices are quoted.

Montreal, 9th November, 1844. Fine Canada Flour, 24s. to 24s. 6d. per barrel, fine Sour 23s. currency.

Philadelphia (United States) 23rd November. On Saturday, 2000 barrels of Flour sold at 4 dollars 25 cents. Since that 1000 at the same price, and 400 half-barrels at

* Bell's Weekly Messenger.

Brandywine, fetched 4 dollars 75 cents. per pair. Sales for city use 4 dollars 25 cents. to 4 dollars 37½ cents. Good extra brands 4 dollars 50 cents. to 5 dollars. Early in the week 4000 bushels of Pennsylvania red, good and prime, fetched 92 to 92½ cents. Since then there have been sales of 11,000 bushels at 87 to 90 cents. from fair to prime red, and 80 to 85 cents, from fair to inferior light.

Buffalo, (United States) 23rd November. The exports *via* the canal this month already exceed any monthly shipment this fall. During the week 47,000 barrels of Flour, and 88,000 bushels of Wheat have gone forward. The whole amount cleared since October, is 108,000 barrels of Flour, and 315,800 bushels of Wheat, mostly for the European markets.

New York, (United States) 30th November. Baltimore Wheat 95 to 102 cents. North Carolina 98 cents. Delaware 101 to 102.

New York, 14th December. Western Flour—Genessee 4 dollars 75 cents. Michigan and Ohio 4 dollars 68½ cents. Southern 5 dollars to 5 dollars 50 cents.

CONCLUSION.

The Canada Corn Law question is surrounded with difficulties, but the measure certainly is injurious to the British Farmer. In granting the boon claimed by the Canadians of having their own Agricultural produce admitted into the United Kingdom nearly duty free, the British Government permits the introduction through Canada of United States' Wheat ground into Flour at a duty of only 4s. per quarter, 1s. only of which goes to the British Revenue.

From preceding returns (pages 27 and 28) it appears that the total importation of Wheat and Wheat Flour *from all the British Colonial possessions* in the year preceding the passing of the existing Act was only equal to the consumption of England and Wales for 1 day and 16 hours, and that the importation *from Canada alone* has, in the 12 months since the Act came into operation been equal to the consumption of England and Wales for 5 days 19 hours.

The importation from all parts in the 11 months ending 5th December, 1844, was equal to the consumption of England and Wales for 22 days.

If, in the first season, there has been so large an increase we may reasonably anticipate that the stimulus given by the Act, will still further augment the importation from Canada in succeeding years.

Under the Act of 1842, Canadian Wheat and Flour could only come into the United Kingdom under the scale

of prices and duties given in page 15 but now they can come in at 1s. per quarter, without any reference to the prices in this country. The following statement clearly shows that the new Act must be injurious to the British Farmer.

In the year ending 28th December, 1844, the highest weekly average price of Wheat in this country, was 56s. 6d. per quarter; therefore if the present scale had been in operation, no Colonial Wheat or Flour could have come in at less than 3s. duty. The lowest price in the year was 45s 1d.

		s.		s.	Duty would be about.
5 weeks the price was at	56	and under	57	3s. per qr.	
15 ditto	ditto	55	„	56	4s.
32 ditto	ditto		under	55	5s.

We shall now conclude by referring to only one other point: viz. the construction put on certain words of the Act. In the Navigation Act 6 Geo. 4, c. 109, it is declared that "All manufactured goods shall be deemed to be the produce of the country of which they are the manufacture." The Act 3 Wm. 4, c. 54, repeats the declaration.

The Act of 1843, says that "*Wheat and Wheat Flour the produce of the said Province of Canada*" shall be admitted at 1s. duty. The plain common sense meaning of this passage is, that the *Wheat* shall be the *produce* of Canada, and under that interpretation of the words, Canada would be only permitted to send here Wheat grown in the Province, or Flour ground from that Wheat. Thus she might send us all her own Wheat, and purchase of Foreigners for her own consumption, but authorities in this country have given a different meaning to the words. When Lord Stanley brought forward the measure in the Commons, his Lordship stated that under the Act above quoted the broad principle was laid down, "*That all manufactured goods shall be deemed to be the produce of the country of which they are the manufacture*, but his Lordship added that *it had been questioned* whether this applied to corn. In 1825 Colonial Wheat was first permitted to be imported at a duty of 5s. per quarter, without reference to the price at home. In 1828, another alteration was made; and in 1830 the Comptroller of Customs at Liverpool, entertaining a great doubt whether United States' Wheat ground in Canada could be admitted into this country as Canadian produce, applied to the Solicitor of the Customs on the subject, and that Legal Functionary gave his decided opinion that Flour made in Canada from

Wheat, the produce of the United States, was to be deemed as the produce of Canada. Lord Stanley also stated that in the 18th Geo. 3, (1778) it had been decided in the Exchequer that ostrich feathers dressed in France were to be deemed French [produce for the purpose of duty. There has been no other legal decision on this important question.

It is much to be regretted that the Agricultural Members did not make a stand upon that point, especially as their attention was called to it by Lord Stanley in a way that might be considered an invitation to debate it. His Lordship observed, that it had been questioned whether the declaration above alluded to applied to *corn*. If in the Canada Act the plain common sense interpretation had been put on the words, and it had been declared that no Flour sent here from Canada should be deemed Canadian produce, unless made from Canadian Wheat, the British Farmer would have had at least the consolation of knowing that without fraud no United States' Wheat could be brought into the United Kingdom at a duty of 4s., unless the price of Wheat in this country was 70s.

The object of the preceding pages has been not so much to give an individual opinion as to state facts, leaving persons therefrom to draw their own conclusions. In the approaching Session of Parliament the question will and must be fully discussed, and if it should be ascertained that the fears of the British Farmers are well founded, and that a great Legislative error has been committed, an endeavour ought to be made to correct it, but the correction of that error will be a matter of considerable difficulty, requiring the utmost deliberation and prudence. The pledge of the British Government to the Canadians has been redeemed by the British Legislature, and retraction would now be viewed by the Province with an angry feeling that might lead to most unhappy consequences.

THE END.